



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2021

3,312: Model WTO

ECTS credits: 6

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Written examination (with defined exam duration) (50%, 90 mins.)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - examination paper written at home (in groups - all given the same grades) (50%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[3,312,3.00 Model WTO](#) -- Englisch -- [Malacrida Reto](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

No prerequisites. Students should, however, bring an interest in interdisciplinary work, and more specifically international trade policy, trade law, trade economics and trade diplomacy. As the WTO is all about governments working together to achieve common international goals, an interest in international government affairs is also desirable. In addition, strong oral and written English skills are needed.

For information on how to apply, see <https://www.model-wto.org/home/application-as-chair/>

The deadline for applications to join the course is 1 September 2021. Candidates need to send their CV and a motivational letter in English. The e-mail address is: application@model-wto.org.

Learning objectives

Through this course and the Model WTO event, students will acquire fundamental knowledge about, and insight into, the functioning and challenges of an intergovernmental international organization like the WTO and international economic diplomacy. Students will develop an understanding of the challenges facing economic cooperation between countries, and they will be able to identify context-appropriate solutions. Students will also learn to examine issues and proposals from different countries' perspectives and to identify options for successful international cooperation. Finally, students will deepen their intercultural skills through interacting with Model WTO participants from all over the world and their negotiating skills as chairpersons of negotiating groups in the context of the Model WTO event.

Course content

The Model WTO

The Model WTO (www.model-wto.org) is a simulation of a trade negotiation among WTO member countries and territories. The event has been organized by student teams from the University of St.Gallen since 1997. To get a better understanding of the event, take a look at this short video: <https://www.model-wto.org/>. The Model WTO 2022 is expected to take place during the study break just before Easter in the first half of April 2022. The precise dates have yet to be confirmed. Attendance is required. The organizers of the Model WTO indicate on their website (<https://www.model-wto.org/home/vision-and-mission/>) that the simulation serves to provide an opportunity for students to engage with important global issues in the simulation framework of the WTO. The active involvement in the Model WTO of WTO officials and diplomats, trade professors and other researchers allows for a stimulating debate and exchange of creative ideas in the realistic context of the World Trade Organization in Geneva. Next year's topic has yet to be determined. For the topics of past editions and pictures, see <https://www.model-wto.org/>



wto.org/home/past-editions/. The Model WTO ordinarily takes place in St.Gallen and Geneva. Please note that alternative arrangements, including an event that is virtual (online) in whole or in part, may need to be adopted if the COVID-19 situation makes this necessary. The organizers also reserve the right to cancel the event for the same reason.

Objectives of the Model WTO course of the University of St.Gallen

The Model WTO course offered at the University of St.Gallen prepares a small group of 12-14 Bachelor students for their role as Chairpersons of the simulation. In the autumn term, the main focus of classes will be on giving the selected students a general introduction to the objectives of the WTO, its various areas of work and structure, and the various challenges faced by the organization. As a highlight, there will be one session at the WTO Secretariat in Geneva to discuss and exchange views with several invited trade diplomats from various WTO Members. If the COVID-19 situation means that the Secretariat cannot accept visitors, this special session will be held in virtual mode. In the spring term, classes will focus on the topic for the Model WTO and on preparing students for the event. The participation of students as Chairpersons of the Model WTO simulation is an integral (and exciting) part of the course. Students prepare for one specific negotiating committee, meaning one precise sub-topic of next year's overarching topic, and chair that committee's negotiations. For more on the structure of the Model WTO, see <https://www.model-wto.org/home/structure-2/>, and for more on the Chairpersons' roles, see <https://www.model-wto.org/home/chairs/> and <https://www.model-wto.org/home/role/>.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course extends over two semesters, the autumn semester 2021 and the spring semester 2022. Credits are earned only (!) upon completion of both parts of the course, at the end of the spring semester 2022. The number of participants is limited to between 12-14 students. Attendance is expected.

The schedule of classes for the autumn semester 2021 is basically as follows: Seven afternoon sessions will be held (four hours each), mainly in interactive lecture format. Some of the time, for scheduling reasons, sessions may be held once a week, at other times in the term the sessions may be further apart. Around mid-November, a session is planned to be held at the WTO Secretariat in Geneva (an online alternative may need to be considered in case the COVID-19 situation prevents a visit at the WTO). Please refer to the online "Stundenplan" for specific dates. The schedule of classes for the spring term 2022 has not yet been established, but it is expected that there would be at least two sessions (one in early February immediately when the spring term starts (four hours in the afternoon), the other in the second half of March (each student will have a group coaching meeting of 60-90 minutes either in the morning or the afternoon of the same day - students will therefore need to be available in the morning exceptionally and should not schedule classes during their meeting hours on that day), with an additional telephone conference with the course lecturer for each Chair team in between. The second semester of the course will mainly involve working in small groups of two to three students.

The Model WTO (to be held in April 2022) extends over a full week. Full attendance during the Model WTO week is not optional, but a course requirement. It will not be possible to attend other classes during that week.

Participation in the Model WTO course is possible only through a special application process (see above and <https://www.model-wto.org/home/application-as-chair/>).

For the WTO visit, if it can be organized at the WTO Secretariat, students are responsible for their own expenses (transportation, food, and possibly accommodation, although usually it is possible to travel to Geneva and return to St.Gallen within the same day).

Participants in the Model WTO course students are exceptionally exempt from paying fees to participate in the Model WTO event (and food and accommodation in Geneva will likewise be covered).

For additional information, contact the course lecturer, Dr. Reto Malacrida (reto.malacrida@unisg.ch).

Course literature

At the beginning of the semester, mandatory readings (compiled in a reader) will be available at the Skriptenkommission and/or on Canvas. Useful (but not mandatory) introductory books are David Collins, *The World Trade Organization: A Beginner's Guide* (Oneworld Publications, 2015); Peter van den Bossche/Denise Prevost, *Essentials of WTO Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2021); or Bernard Hoekman/Petros Mavroidis, *World Trade Organization (WTO): Law, Economics, and Politics* (Routledge Group, 2015).

Additional course information



In the case of the President's Board having to implement new directives due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in AS2021, the course information listed above will be changed as follows:

- The course is conducted online via the ZOOM platform;
- The ZOOM recordings of the course are available for 30 days;
- The lecturer informs via StudyNet on the changed implementation modalities of the course;
- Course content such as excursion is cancelled.

The examination information listed below would be changed as follows:

- The written examination is conducted online; further information is communicated via StudyNet.
- There are no other changes necessary to the examination information.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Written examination (with defined exam duration) (50%, 90 mins.)

Examination time: term time

Remark

60 minutes' duration

Examination-aid rule

Open Book

Students are free to choose aids but will have to comply with the following restrictions:

- All the pocket calculators that are not of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series are explicitly inadmissible.
- In addition, any type of communication, as well as any electronic devices that can be programmed and are capable of communication such as electronic dictionaries, notebooks, tablets, mobile telephones and others, are inadmissible.
- Students are themselves responsible for the procurement of examination aids.

Supplementary aids

The examination questions can be solved with the help of the course reader, class attendance and notes from class work, and course slides from class work.

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (in groups - all given the same grades) (50%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

The Group paper is called "Chair paper".

Examination-aid rule

Term papers

Written work must be written without outside help according to the known citation standards, and a declaration of authorship must be attached, which is available as a template on the StudentWeb.



Documentation (quotations, bibliography, etc.) must be carried out universally and consistently according to the requirements of the chosen/specified citation standard such as e.g. APA or MLA.

The legal standard is recommended for legal work (cf. by way of example: FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R., SCHINDLER B., Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende (the latest edition in each case), or according to the recommendations of the Law School).

The reference sources of information (paraphrases, quotations, etc.) that has been taken over literally or in the sense of the original text must be integrated into the text in accordance with the requirements of the citation standard used. Informative and bibliographical notes must be included as footnotes (recommendations and standards e.g. in METZGER, C., Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien (latest edition)).

For all written work at the University of St.Gallen, the indication of page numbers is mandatory, regardless of the standard chosen. Where page numbers are missing in sources, the precise designation must be made differently: chapter or section title, section number, article, etc.

Supplementary aids

Students will conduct their own research to find useful documents and literature.

They will receive guidance and some coaching from the lecturer.

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

- (i) Students will have to write a Chair paper in pairs (or groups of three) on a topic that will depend on the topic for the 2022 Model WTO and the committee for which the two/three students are preparing. They will have 4-6 weeks to write the papers. The topic is expected to be assigned at the very end of 2021 or early in 2022 on the basis of the topic for the 2022 Model WTO simulation and will be linked to the committee for which the students are preparing. Students may express preferences concerning the topics, but the final decision about allocating topics to students is made by the lecturer. Each Chair team will be asked to provide an outline for the assigned topic, and the lecturer will meet in March 2022 with each Chair team to answer questions and provide clarifications. In addition, there is expected to be a telephone conference with each Chair team in early March 2022. Papers will have to be submitted early in the spring semester (probably in late March 2022), one week before the start of the Model WTO simulation.
- 1. (ii) The written exam will typically include three practical and/or theoretical questions (possibly, but not necessarily, including one extensive multiple-choice-type question) and covers the totality of the material covered in the autumn term (class work (including slides), discussions, mandatory readings). Examples of previous examinations will be provided. The topics likely covered will be: Trade policy; The WTO's mission, structures, principles and agreements; international trade statistics and current trends; WTO trade negotiations; the WTO negotiating agenda; RTAs; WTO dispute settlement; GATS (services); TRIPS; "Trade and ..." issues (environment, PPMs); Development issues; WTO reform; and/or related topics. The written examination will take place in the last session of the autumn term 2021 in December.
- 2.
- 3. (iii) Active participation will be assessed in terms of attendance in class, preparation for class, the quality and quantity of active participation in class in the autumn and spring terms, and full attendance at, and participation in, the week-long Model WTO simulation itself.

Examination relevant literature

The list of mandatory readings for the written examination will be provided at the beginning of the semester. No book will be assigned as mandatory reading. If adjustments have to be made to the list of mandatory readings, a revised list will be circulated. No further changes will be made to the list beyond mid-November.



Please note

Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW51) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 42 are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 34 (Thursday, 26 August 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 18 October 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 18 October 2021);

Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the registration period in CW 45 (Monday, 8 November 2021).